

contesting or taking part in elections transitional authorities are responsible for organizing;

Whereas the African Union reaffirmed on August 3, 2021, the need for the Transitional Government to respect the 18-month transitional timeline for elections in October 2022 and reiterated that members of the TMC “shall not be eligible to be candidates for the elections at the end of the transition”;

Whereas the TMC released from jail approximately 300 people charged with crimes of opinion, terrorism, and harming the State in November 2021, in advance of a dialogue with armed groups in Qatar;

Whereas the TMC and several dozen rebel groups launched a pre-dialogue process in Qatar in March 2022, in advance of an inclusive national civilian dialogue in Chad scheduled for May 2022;

Whereas a peaceful and democratic Chad is essential for the stability and development of Central Africa and the Sahel;

Whereas Chad faces a dire humanitarian crisis due to threats posed by terrorist organizations and armed groups, regional instability, climate change, food insecurity, and decades of internal mismanagement and corruption by former President Deby’s government;

Whereas the April 2021 coup d’etat was inconsistent with the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which states that AGOA eligible countries must have established or are making continual progress toward establishing the rule of law and political pluralism; and

Whereas United States security assistance to Chad, which has long been prioritized over democracy, human rights, and development assistance, thereby contributing to the militarization of the former Government of Chad, should remain suspended until democratic elections are held and civilian rule is restored: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the April 2021 military takeover in Chad as a coup d’etat;

(2) stands with the people of Chad in their democratic aspirations;

(3) supports the African Union’s call for transitional authorities, including General Mahamat Deby and members of the TMC, to—

(A) organize elections by October 22, 2022, in accordance with the 18-month timeframe articulated by the TMC; and

(B) commit publicly not to stand as candidates in the elections they are responsible for organizing;

(4) calls on General Mahamat Deby and leaders of the TMC to—

(A) immediately release all of those arbitrarily arrested during the April-May 2021 protests;

(B) ensure that security forces respect rights related to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression and hold accountable security force members responsible for excessive use of force or other human rights abuses;

(C) publicly commit not to run in elections;

(D) abide by the 18-month transitional timeline for restoring civilian rule via free, fair, and peaceful democratic elections and return to their barracks;

(E) support an inclusive national civilian dialogue by ensuring that all parties may participate freely and openly;

(F) commit to respecting freedom of expression, opinion, the press, and access to information to include unimpeded internet access for the people of Chad; and

(5) calls on the Secretary of State to—

(A) identify coup leaders and their accomplices and enablers working to undermine a democratic process in Chad for consideration

for visa restrictions and targeted financial sanctions where available;

(B) state publicly that those who perpetrate human rights abuses or works to undermine the democratic process in Chad, including by impeding freedoms of peaceful of assembly, expression, or association, including related to press and access to information, will be held accountable, which could include through visa restrictions and financial sanctions where available;

(C) publicly urge TMC leaders to abide by the 18-month transitional timeline, restore civilian rule, and publicly commit not to run as candidates;

(D) monitor, discourage, and deter any effort by external parties to support the extension of the TMC’s mandate or otherwise delay or interfere with the restoration of civilian rule via free, fair, and peaceful democratic elections;

(E) coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies to—

(i) suspend non-humanitarian bilateral assistance to the Government of Chad, including security assistance, until civilian rule is restored via free, fair, and peaceful democratic elections;

(ii) prioritize support for an inclusive civilian national dialogue by ensuring the participation of opposition party members, civil society leaders, women, and youth;

(iii) prioritize support for a free, fair, and peaceful electoral process by working with electoral authorities, political party representatives, and members of civil society in Chad;

(iv) support, as appropriate, efforts to draft a new constitution;

(v) ensure that the United States bilateral policy towards Chad is fully aligned with the broader policy for the Sahel called for in the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2022 (division AA of Public Law 117-103); and

(vi) ensure future assistance is appropriately balanced between defense, diplomacy, and development; and

(F) direct the Department of the Treasury to use the voice and vote of the United States in international financial institutions to ensure there is a mechanism for civil society to have input into the development and oversight of programs and activities being funded, and that support provided through such instructions prioritize the restoration of civilian rule, including through free, fair, and peaceful democratic elections.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Elizabeth McAlindon, Jordan Rupli, Steven Szucs, Alexis Vance, Mark Fraenkel and Boaz Campbell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 12, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later

in the day and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Vazirani nomination, postcloture; further, that all postcloture time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Dettelbach nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and that if cloture is invoked on the Dettelbach nomination, all postcloture time be expired at 2:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. First, I want to thank my colleague and cofounder and cochair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus for his comments today.

What you just heard was that the White House has sent the application for membership to NATO for Finland and Sweden to the U.S. Senate. It now goes to our committee, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and then, I hope, to the floor soon. I suspect there will be an overwhelming vote because everybody in this Chamber understands the importance not just of NATO expansion but of these two countries in particular.

I thank my colleague for offering those words today, and my hope is we can move very quickly on that.

REMEMBERING SHINZO ABE

Mr. PORTMAN. Before we talk about Ukraine, this has been a time over the last couple of weeks since we were last here in session of a lot of change and volatility around the world.

I want to begin by expressing my shock and sorrow over the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. I know I speak for all Americans when I express my deepest condolences to the people of Japan for this tragic loss.

Prime Minister Abe was a dear friend to the United States and a leader in building new coalitions in the Indo-Pacific to support democracies in the region and counter the nuclear threat from North Korea and China’s various malign influences.

When I visited Japan a few months ago with a bipartisan group of Senate colleagues, I saw firsthand the changes

that he brought to Japan that are now beginning to bear fruit: a stronger and more effective national security posture for Japan; a more confident Japan in the region; better trade and security ties, including the quad dialogue with Japan, Australia, the United States and India; and the Indo-Pacific economic framework.

His imprint on Japan and the very special alliance we have with Japan will be long lasting and beneficial to both of our countries.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. I also come to the floor today, as was noted, to talk about Ukraine. Russia's brutal assault continues. We must do more here, not just in the United States but around the world, to help Ukraine stand up to this brutality.

This marks the 17th consecutive week in session that I have been on the floor to discuss the unprovoked illegal and deadly assault on the people of Ukraine.

This invasion started 138 days ago, and it is more critical than ever that the United States and our allies support the efforts of Ukraine to defend itself against this assault.

Let me just recap briefly the situation on the ground. A lot has happened since we talked a couple of weeks ago. First, here in the north, you can see the light blue, which is the Ukrainian advances. The Ukrainians have been successful in pushing back against the Russian offensive and taking back some of the territory around the city of Kharkiv. This is a critical area, obviously.

Kharkiv is the sister city of my hometown, Cincinnati, OH. I was involved in that sister city arrangement 40 years ago, and it is a beautiful city. It has been almost flattened by the unending and barbaric attacks from Russia.

In the outskirts of Kharkiv, again, Ukrainian forces are not just holding the line but also making gradual advances, same as through here, in Kherson. You can see there is, again, the light blue here that indicates where the Ukrainians have made progress here in the south.

In the south and in Kharkiv, there has been progress made. This is very important in the south here because, as you know, Russia's goal is to try to shut off the entire Black Sea from Ukraine being able to access and, therefore, to continue to be one of the great exporters of the world. They have blocked any passage here of the ships that could be sending wheat and other grains to the rest of the world, including to Africa, where they are very dependent on Ukrainian wheat to keep people from starving, and yet the Russians are blocking these. But these cities are still in the control of Ukraine, and it is essential that continue, that Russia not create a landlocked Ukraine, which would, over the long

term, be incredibly detrimental to the economy of Ukraine. It is vital that they do well there.

I will say, though, that here in the east, it is a different situation. Here is Donetsk and Luhansk, the Donbas region. Here is where Russia has made incremental progress in the last couple of weeks, using, again, bombs and missiles that are flattening cities, killing civilians.

This city of Severodonetsk, you have heard about—it is about right here—has fallen to the Russian forces after a months-long battle in the last couple of weeks.

Its twin city, Lysychansk, which is also in this region, has also fallen, completing Russia's brutal conquest of what is called the Luhansk region. So Donetsk is still partly in Russian control—partly not. Luhansk is now in Russian control.

But it is important to remember this: Russia paid dearly for every inch of Luhansk—by the way, much of which they flattened. They literally destroyed before occupying it. They lost troops, and they lost military equipment.

But, significantly, because taking this area required massive amounts of resources from Russia, it drew attention away from the north—Kharkiv, as we saw, and down here in Kherson.

So it enabled these brave Ukrainian forces in these other places to make progress, not just to hold out against the overwhelming Russian onslaught but to make progress. The Russians have now announced they are in an "operational pause," meaning they are claiming they are going to stop their large-scale offenses until their soldiers have rested.

But as in the past, they can't be trusted. And, in fact, small-scale offensive missile strikes and rocket attacks continue all along this front line.

We also must not downplay even what these sporadic strikes can do. Consider the tragedy that occurred about 2 weeks ago at a shopping mall in the Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk. This is in central Ukraine, the area we just talked about.

As more than 1,000 innocent Ukrainian civilians shopped with their friends and families at this shopping mall, a Russian strategic bomber launched a large Kh-22 missile. Now, this is a long-range, nuclear-capable missile that was initially designed to destroy aircraft carriers—aircraft carriers—and they shot it into the middle of a shopping mall—turned it into a burning inferno. You can see here in this photograph.

As a result of the explosion and the fire, 20 people were killed immediately, and more than 50 were wounded. Dozens more were declared missing. We are still getting the final numbers from this horrific tragedy, but it occurred during the summit of the so-called G7. That is the group of developed countries, larger economies—Japan, United States, and a few European countries—who were meeting to talk about the

issue of Russia and Ukraine, among other things. The G7 rightfully condemned this atrocity as "an abominable attack," an attack on civilians in a shopping mall.

Just yesterday evening in Chasiv, Chasiv Yar, which is a residential town in eastern Ukraine, a Russian rocket attack struck an apartment complex and killed at least 15 people. More than 20 people are believed to be trapped in the rubble as emergency workers continue to work today to be able to free those who were trapped, to try to rescue innocent civilians who are under attack. Again, this is an apartment complex. People are trapped inside it, even as we talk.

These barbaric, cowardly, long-range missile attacks on civilian targets have to be condemned by all of us, but they have to be stopped in two ways. One is by providing Ukrainians what they need in terms of anti-aircraft, anti-missile technology, but also by giving the Ukrainians the ability to use these longer-range missiles themselves.

Right now, the Russians can sit back with impunity and launch these attacks. I join the people of Ukraine in mourning for the loss of these innocent civilians at the hands of Russia's cruelty. The terror, by the way, that is caused by these attacks is not an accident. It is part of the Russian war plan, to cause terror. Striking civilian targets is certainly one thing they are doing. Continuing to blockade those Black Sea ports I talked about is another one, increasing the economic cost of this war on the Ukrainian people.

This is one reason why, by the way, a couple of weeks ago just before we left for the recess, we had a vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a resolution to name Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. That passed on a bipartisan basis, and my hope is that it comes here to the floor of the U.S. Senate, so we can all go on record, again, condemning what is going on over there and making it clear that Russia has become a pariah country, that this is not normal behavior, even in the tragedy of war.

Striking civilian targets deliberately is, unfortunately, continuing day in and day out.

In response to these brutal acts, the bravery and effectiveness of the Ukrainian defenders has been impressive but not surprising. Think about it. They are defending their families. They are also defending freedom, defending their homeland. The stakes of this war are high, and the fate of a sovereign country hangs in the balance. But I will say today, it is not just about Ukraine, as important as that is. It is bigger than that because, if President Putin is successful in taking more of Ukraine than he already controls—let's see the map again.

If he does, in fact, expand beyond what he has already done, taking Crimea, taking this area of Luhansk and